



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
MAYOR

November 9, 2009

MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force
c/o California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support – Map 3 and Strong Protections of Southern California's Coastal Ecosystem

Dear Blue Ribbon Task Force members:

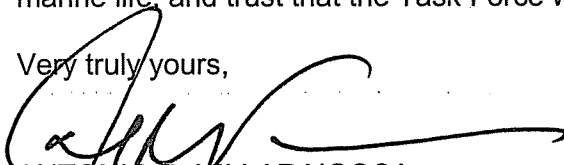
As the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles, I am committed to ensuring the future health and vitality of our coast. I strongly support the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) process and the establishment of a network of marine protected areas (MPAs) along the southern California coast. I would like to express my strong support for Map 3 as it is the only map which adequately protects the critical areas and high quality habitats necessary to ensure that fisheries can recover and be healthy for generations to come.

The health of the coastal ocean is important to all of Los Angeles, and not just those who live on the coast. Residents throughout our City visit the beaches and coastline, each year, to enjoy marine wildlife, and subsistence fish from the public piers. The ocean is a public resource and its protection is of critical importance.

As you recommended at your last meeting in July, a strong backbone of marine reserves which thoroughly meet all the science guidelines provided by the Science Advisory Team is critical for the success of an MPA network and for the protection of southern California's coastal ecosystem. Such protections will not only protect what is left of precious ecosystems, but it will also keep our region's fishing industry sustainable for future generations. In a state where our economic activity is largely fueled by the health of our coastal resources, it is vital we invest in our ocean future.

Thank you very much for all your hard work in ensuring the protection of Southern California's marine life, and trust that the Task Force will choose Map 3 as the preferred alternative.

Very truly yours,



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
Mayor

ARV:rp

cc: California Fish and Game Commission

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